



H BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR, 1971

BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor R.J.R. Seamer (Chairman)
The Mayor (ex-officio)
Councillor Mrs. W. E. Smith (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A. T. Brodie
Councillor A. J. Gray
Councillor D.J. Joyce
Councillor W. J. J. Beeton
Councillor K. G. Harris
Councillor R. W. Stonebanks
Councillor Mrs. D. J. Glenn
Councillor P. J. Mann

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Councillor K. G. Harris
Councillor G. H. Essex
Councillor D. R. C. Flack

TOWN CLERK:

H. BEDFORD, ESQ., Solicitor

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.
Town Hall, Stamford, Lincs. Tel: 4444 Ext. 52

Public Health Inspector:

G. FOX, M.A.P.H.I.

Town Hall, Stamford, Lincs. Tel: 4444 Ext. 53

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

M. K. DAWSON



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BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1971

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To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors
of the Borough of Stamford

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighteenth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Living Conditions of the Borough.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	1918
Population (Census 1962)	11,743
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, 31.12.71) ...	14,310
Rateable Value	£533,212
Product of 1p. rate	£5,690
Number of inhabited houses	4974

Vital Statistics for the year 1971

Note: Birth and Death Rates

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as "net" rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Stamford are 1.05 and 0.79 respectively. The corresponding figure when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Net Rate.

The area comparability factors contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Live Births	106 119	225
Legitimate	97 112	209
Illegitimate	9 7	16
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		-	15.7
Net Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		-	16.5
Rate for England and Wales		-	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births		-	7.0

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Stillbirths	2 1	3
Legitimate	2 1	3
Illegitimate	- -	NIL
Total Live and Still Births		228
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births		-	13.0
Rate for England and Wales		-	12.0
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Deaths	82 88	170
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		-	11.9
Net Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		-	9.4
Rate for England and Wales		-	11.6
Natural increase, i.e. Excess of Live Births over Deaths		-	55

Infantile Mortality - Deaths of Infants under One Year

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of Deaths	1 2	3
Legitimate	- 2	2
Illegitimate	1 -	1
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		-	13.0
Rate for England and Wales		-	18.0
The number of deaths of infants under one year of age		-	3
It was 4 in 1969 and 3 in 1970.			
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	-	10	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	-	63	

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Neo-Natal Mortality i.e. Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	-	1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		-	4.0
Rate for England and Wales		-	12.0

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Early Neo-Natal Deaths i.e. Deaths of infants under one week of age	1	-	1
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		-	4.0
Rate for England and Wales		-	10.0

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Peri-Natal Deaths		-	4
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (i.e. Still Births and Deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total			
Live and Still Births		-	18.0
Rate for England and Wales		-	22.0

There was no case of Maternal death, i.e. death due to pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

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MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED IN THE
BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

1968	120
1969	113
1970	121
1971	107

The number of nuptials has fallen this year and so has the average age of the contracting parties. There is a tendency for some teenagers to enter on matrimony before they are mature enough or have a wide enough knowledge of life to shoulder the problems and to accept the self-denial and the rough patches which are just some of the ingredients of success in this sphere and so they temp disillusionment.

The live birth rate at 16.5 was down on the two previous years, when it was eighteen and is very close to the National figure of sixteen. The National figure for total live births still continues its downward trend which has occurred progressively year by year for the past eight. Over this period the birth rate has fallen by two and a half per 1,000 of the population.

In the light of this where does the danger lie of overpopulation of this land, by Natural Increase, about which so many organisations and individuals express anxiety?

In 1970 there were five still births and during this review period there were three. Placental insufficiency was the cause of death in two cases and in the third the cause was unknown.

A total of sixteen illegitimate births represented seven per cent of the total live births and was three up on the previous year. This almost reaches the disturbing National figure of eight per cent. Even in these tolerant days sixteen young lives start with a disadvantage in

not having two natural parents and a secure home. The figures also demonstrate the need for improved and relevant sex education and the inculcation of the personal virtues of self discipline and personal responsibility.

The Death Rate in the Borough was 11.9 before correction compared with the National figure of 11.6. After the use of the comparability factor which makes allowances for the preponderance of those in the older age groups in Stamford's population, the figure is reduced to the favourable one of 9.4 per thousand. With the influx of new residents it is only a matter of time before the composition of our age and sex groups are corrected.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales has stuck for the fourth successive year at 18 per thousand live births. Stamford, as is its wont improved on this with a figure of thirteen. The Infantile Deaths were attributed as follows:

Under one week of age

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Male, aged 45 minutes. | Congenital abnormalities. |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|

Over one week and under a year.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 2. Female, aged 2 months | Cot death syndrome. |
| 3. Female, aged 3 months | Cot death syndrome. |

There is yet no clear understanding as to why a seemingly healthy baby is found dead in its cot. The factors which cause the cardiac or respiratory collapse are just not known though at 3 per thousand of live babies it is not all that uncommon. Extensive research is currently being done on the problem. One clear fact is the shock and distress caused to the mother, who should be given every support and sympathy in her completely unpredictable and unpreventable loss, for which alas she so often tends to blame herself erroneously.

Peri-Natal Mortality is regarded as the most significant of all the infantile mortality statistics and in this the figure for Stamford at eighteen was four better than the National average.

All these vital statistics declare that Stamford is a favourable place in which to be born, to live, to work and to enter 'the autumn days.'

The natural increase, that is, excess of live births over deaths, was fifty-five compared with eighty-nine in 1970. Unusually there was a marked preponderance of girls over boys!

It must be borne in mind that where small populations are concerned, a slight variation in the actual numbers involved will lead to a wide swing in the Rate and so one has to be careful not to deduce too much from them. It is clear however that the scholastic, environmental and cultural facilities to meet the needs of our expanding population of young people must be borne in mind when future plans are made.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

			M	F	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	...	...	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	3	4	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	9	2	11	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	...	4	-	4	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	6	5	11	
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	...	-	1	1	
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	-	2	2
Anaemias	...	1	-	1	
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	...	2	-	2	
Hypertensive Disease	...	3	2	5	
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	18	18	36	
Other forms of Heart Disease	..	5	7	12	
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	6	11	17	
Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	1	6	7	
Pneumonia	...	6	9	15	
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	5	1	6	
Other diseases of Respiratory System	...	-	1	1	
Peptic Ulcer	...	1	-	1	
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	-	1	1	
Other diseases of Digestive System	...	1	-	1	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	1	-	1	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	1	-	1	
Other diseases of Genito-Urinary System	...	-	1	1	
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	-	3	3	
Congenital Abnormalities	...	3	-	3	
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	...	-	2	2	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	1	1	2	
All Other accidents	...	1	3	4	
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	...	-	1	1	
TOTALS		82	88	170	

Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System were as usual at the head of the causes of death claiming seventy-seven out of the total of one hundred and seventy; and of these thirty-six or practically a half were ascribed to Coronary Arterial Disease. A further seventeen were due to similar pathological processes in the arteries supplying the brain, resulting in haemorrhage or thrombosis, namely strokes.

The exact causes of hardening of the arteries and the deposition on their walls of fatty accumulations are still far from clear, but it is wise to take advantage of what is known. This consists of avoiding excesses of all kinds. Food intake should be related to energy requirements and excessive weight from early childhood throughout life should be avoided. It is not for nothing that Life Insurance Rates are loaded for the excessively heavy. Regular exercise should be part of the pattern of living. Just watching others taking it through the medium of "the box" is no substitute. Excessive sugar in the diet is becoming increasingly accepted as a factor to be avoided and it together with an over preponderance of carbohydrates should be avoided. It is highly desirable that one's personal life should be organised so that there is time for regular mental and physical relaxation. Finally there is ample evidence to show that cigarette smoking can also be implicated in the chain of events which lead to a cardio-vascular or cerebral catastrophe.

Malignant Growths again held their unenviable second place in the death tables being responsible for forty-four and of these eleven - one quarter - were due to the largely preventable Cancer of the Lung. Lady Virginia Nicotine having seduced so many then makes a suicide pact with them.

Which of its constituents makes a cigarette so appealing?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Hydrogen Cyanide</u> | - | This is present in a concentration 160 times higher than is considered in Industry to be safe. |
| <u>Ammonia</u> | - | A useful household cleansing agent. |
| <u>Carbon Monoxide</u> | - | The deadly gas from exhausts and in coal gas which reduces the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood. |
| <u>Nicotine</u> | - | An excellent insecticide and a protoplasmic poison but probably the addictive factor, as a nervous system stimulant. |
| <u>Butane</u> | - | Useful in camping stoves and as a lighter fuel. A by-product in petroleum cracking. |
| <u>Tar</u> | - | Tobacco Tar contains more than 200 compounds. Ten of these have cancer producing properties in animal experiments. |

Phenol

- This can destroy the cilia - the hair-like structures that line and protect the respiratory tracts. It is a corrosive poison and is very irritating. Used in making glue and in the paint, plastic and explosive industries.

Diseases of the respiratory system took third place in the classification list with twenty-five. The "English Disease" - Bronchitis, being virtually unknown on the Continent - claimed six. This is known to be associated with air pollution which leaves the air passages open to superimposed infection and yet our monitoring of the Lincolnshire air shows it to be as pure as any in the Country. Could it again be self-inflicted air pollution through smoking?

Six deaths were due to accidents and of these two were on the roads. Of the other four, two were attributable to fractured hips following on accidents in the home, to a 79 year old man and a 52 year old woman. One 88 year old woman died from a Pulmonary Embolus following a fall in the home and a four year old girl died following an accident in the home.

This shows the necessity of constantly reviewing the domestic scene to anticipate if possible the potential hazards of loose carpets or rugs, polished floors, poorly lit stairs and landings and the ill-placed article to mention a few.

There was one Suicide involving a forty-seven year old woman who drowned herself in the Welland. It is always tragic when depression and despair become so overwhelming that the only answer the victim can see is the oblivion of death. It is to be hoped that the good work which the Samaritans are doing will gradually reduce the numbers of those who find themselves in this desperate plight; and be able to throw light into the dark torment of their minds.

Of the one hundred and seventy deaths, ninety-six were in individuals aged over seventy-five years, that is fifty-six per cent. This serves to highlight the fact that very many more are living to a ripe old age. These added years must be made as meaningful and interesting as any others in the life span. Contemporaneously with this is the fact of earlier and ever earlier retirement, either as a condition of employment or prematurely due to redundancy. It is high time that another word replaced "retirement" which carries with it a strong flavour of withdrawal or retreat which should be completely absent from the occasion. It cannot be stressed too much that training for "retirement" should be as well thought out and as well pursued as for any other occupation which will take up at least a third of the allotted span. Nothing is more frustrating than to be directionless and that is precisely what happens when a person's sole interest lies in his office or workplace and he has not had the time or taken the trouble to cultivate and keep alive hobbies or pursuits of the mind. The acquiring of new interests or strengthening of old and the whole process of

preparing for "retirement" should be started in the decade prior to the event. The day will surely come when "in service" training for this will become an accepted part of employment and no longer will anyone step from his daily work routine into a time laden monotony.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES IN THE AREA

Nursing in the Home

Under the Local Health Authority arrangements the Borough has one District Midwife, Mrs. Hudson, 36, Waverley Gardens, St. Miford. Telephone: Stamford 4594, and one District Nurse/Midwife, Mrs. Ludlow, 71, Empingham Road, Stamford, Telephone: Stamford 3700. District Nursing duties are also carried out by Mrs. Marsden of 7, Boxer Road, Wittering, Telephone: Wensford 796.

Welfare Foods

Welfare Foods can be obtained from the Barn Hill Clinic at the following times:

Monday to Friday: 8.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.

Health Visitors

A Health Visitor has a wide sweep of duties to the Community providing a health advisory service not only to the pre and school aged child but to the whole family. In addition to basic nursing qualifications in general nursing and midwifery she must hold the Health Visitor's Certificate. Such a person is unchallengeably equipped to give expert advice on health queries, home hygiene, home safety and medico-social problems generally. Where there is a health aspect to Problem Families or the aged they must logically fall into her sphere of responsibility. Where there is a handicapped person in a family her support is again of the greatest value. Miss M. A. Hetherington, Stamford's Health Visitor brings a full measure of dedicated conscientiousness to this work. A most welcome advance this year has been the twice weekly sessions at which she visits the Family Doctor's surgery and this gives a chance for a personal interchange of information on matters of common concern. This is worthy of every possible encouragement for it is after all a natural modus operandi. Likewise regular attendance weekly at the Consultant Paediatrician's ward round at the Stamford Hospital is most rewarding. Mrs. P. Stevenson, S.R.N., assists in the work in general and with the school children more particularly both in the clinic services and in domiciliary visiting with cheerful energy.

Ambulance Service

This service is a County Council directly controlled one. There are four ambulances and one sitting case car with District Headquarters at Ryhall Road, Stamford. Telephone No. Stamford 2379. Support is also received from the Hospital Car Service, the drivers of which work on a rota basis.

Hospitals

Stamford and Rutland Hospital, Stamford, provides full facilities for general medical, surgical, sick children and maternity patients.

Geriatric patients and the more chronic sick are served by St. George's Hospital, Stamford.

Patients with diseases of the Chest are catered for at the Chest Hospital, Bourne and clinics for patients with diseases of the chest are also held at the Stamford Hospital.

Persons suffering from infectious diseases, requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital at Fengate.

The Day Hospital at St. George's is of tremendous benefit to those patients who are not so ill as to need in-patient treatment and yet require more care and therapeutics than can be provided at home.

All these Hospitals are controlled by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

The services to the mentally disordered patient are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board based on the Harmston Hall and Rauceby Hospitals. The former has a sister Hospital at St. Peter's, Bourne. This has 155 beds and caters for those grades of children and women who are so mentally handicapped that they would not benefit from training at Harmston.

In recent years there has been an increasing number of referrals of children suffering from emotional and behavioural problems. Those deemed in need of the help of a Consultant Child Psychiatrist have been seen by Dr. B. Whitehead, M.A., M.D., at his Peterborough District Hospital Clinic. A close link and exchange of information has been forged between the Consultant, the Educational Psychologist, the School Head and the School Doctor which must benefit the patient and his family.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) PROVIDED BY KESTEVEN COUNTY COUNCIL

Child Welfare

Weekly Clinic, Barn Hill House, Stamford.

Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon (Minor ailment and Infant Welfare)
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Infant Welfare)

First and
Third Mondays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Infant Welfare)

This is staffed by a Health Visitor and a State Registered Nurse. A doctor attends each Friday morning and on the first, third and fifth Friday afternoons and also on the third Monday afternoon.

The average attendance at these clinics was 85, compared with 93 the previous year. Even with this reduction the numbers are too high from the patient, staff and accommodation points of view. The total attendance for the year was 6299 compared with 6886 in 1970.

Barn Hill Clinic remains inadequate to deal with the demands made upon it by a population which has increased by a third in the decade between the last two censuses. During this period there has been no concomitant increase in the available room and facilities. The proposed extension is eagerly awaited - but when? The artificial illumination ~~has been~~ brought up to generally accepted standards. -

The possibility of a peripheral clinic has again been given thought but the great majority of the mothers prefer the idea of the site near the Town Centre.

The Voluntary Helpers who contribute so much to the Friday afternoon Infant Welfare Clinic deserve hearty thanks and this is gratefully given on behalf of the patients and staff alike. After her long illness it will give many satisfaction to know that Mrs. F. Grundy is convalescing and it is hoped she can soon be welcomed back in person for she has been a dedicated member and Honorary Secretary for many years.

Guthrie tests are done on all babies not having had a satisfactory one done already. No case of phenylketonuria was discovered.

Development check-ups at six and twelve months are encouraged and are being increasingly sought.

Diphtheria Immunisation

An immunisation clinic is held at Barn Hill House, Stamford, on the first Wednesday in each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Immunisation is also available at the Friday morning and the Monday and Friday afternoon clinics if requested. The numbers immunised against diphtheria during the year were:

	1971	1970
Primary Protection	176	198
Reinforcing Protection	<u>375</u>	<u>232</u>
	551	430

It is encouraging that there has been a gratifying increase in the numbers having reinforcing protection as the initial immunisation of infancy cannot be expected to give indefinite immunity without such assistance.

In addition the following children living outside the Borough and County were immunised:

	1971	1970
Primary Protection	14	19
Reinforcing Protection	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>
	36	31

120 children were immunised by the Family Doctors, 65 for primary courses and 55 for reinforcing protection.

Help at the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic has again been given by Mlle. Dauzou and Mrs. Broughton of the British Red Cross Society to whom I would like to express sincere thanks.

School Health Service Clinic

This is situated at Barn Hill, Stamford, providing Ophthalmic, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics. A minor ailment clinic is held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on weekdays and is attended by a State Registered Nurse.

Speech Therapy clinics are held on Wednesday mornings and afternoons by Miss Glover, Chartered Speech Therapist.

Physiotherapy Clinics are held on Wednesday afternoons by Mrs. J. Quantrill, Chartered Physiotherapist.

Appointments for both clinics are necessary and referrals are from Medical Practitioners. It is noticeable that many more requests for Physiotherapy are being initiated by the family doctors and the Paediatric and Chest Physicians.

School Dental Service

After a two year gap in this very important service, Mr. R. Cliffe, L.D.S., came to fill the appointment. The work was again building up when the tragic death of this young man in December brought it to an untimely end. It is trusted that the hiatus will not be so long next time for the need is there.

Mothercraft Classes

These are held on Tuesday afternoons and are primarily intended for women expecting their first baby. The course consists of eight lectures covering Ante Natal care, preparation for confinement and infant care. Relaxation exercises are also taught, films are shown and the occasion is made an enjoyably social one. The Club was again organised and run by Miss M. Hetherington, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. The attendances of mothers-to-be was as follows:

	<u>Number of patients</u>
Stamford	45
Huntingdonshire and Peterborough	29
Rutland	10
Northamptonshire	<u>3</u>
	87

The total number of visits made to the Clinic was 632. The total attendances were up by fifty on the previous year.

Cervical Cytology Clinic

This was the fifth year of operation of this clinic at Barn Hill and the number of patients availing themselves of the facility were:

	<u>Number of patients</u>
Stamford	166
South Kesteven Rural District	26
Huntingdonshire and Peterborough	63
Rutland	53
Northamptonshire	15
Leicestershire	<u>4</u>
	327

Of the 327, 166 were new patients and 161 attended for repeat smears.

No unsuspected case of early cancer of the Cervix was confirmed but there were three in which suspicion was raised and the requisite steps were taken.

The Clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons by the writer relieved on several occasions by Dr. Anne Whitley.

The present sessions are sufficient to keep the waiting list of new patients down to a minimum. It is the policy and intention to send appointments automatically to all who attend the Clinic once, at the end of three years unless an earlier visit is deemed desirable. Whilst all these priorities have been met there was a waiting list of 233 for the routine three year recall at 31st December. It would seem desirable to increase the sessions until this six months backlog is cleared. The reporting on the smears from the Cervical Cytology Department is now within two weeks which is very satisfactory. Family doctors and patients are always informed.

The Department of Health and Social Security have declared their intention to start a National scheme for the Registration and periodic recall of all who attend once for a cervical smear. Such a scheme appears cumbersome, means one more officially documented episode in a woman's life, has little room for elasticity in the frequency or mode of recall and it will be resented by many women that the documents with their date of birth will pass through so many hands - none of whom owe any allegiance to the Hippocratic Oath! It certainly will not improve on the present recall system referred to above or add one worker more to the ranks of those involved in the Service.

Chiropody

The Chiropody Service of the County Council uses the Derby and Joan Centre run by the British Red Cross Society as its agent and Mr. Biggs brings much comfort and increased mobility to many with painful corns and callouses. This service is not confined to Club members and where a medical practitioner indicates it is necessary a domiciliary visit and treatment can be arranged on application to Alderman Mrs. Boyfield, Conduit Road, or Mrs. Turnill, St. Mary's Place, Stamford.

(b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Tuberculosis

At Stamford Hospital
Weekly Clinics

Tuesdays from 2.00 p.m.
Fridays from 2.00 p.m.

Under Dr. G. Bernard Royce, Consultant Chest Physician, Peterborough Group of Hospitals.

Venercal Disease

Clinics are held at the Out Patients' Department, District Hospital, Peterborough under Dr. N. A. Ross

Men

Mondays 5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Wednesdays 5.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Women

Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Thursdays 4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

(c) PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE BOARD

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health

Laboratory at Peterborough under the direction of Dr. E. J. C. Glencross. A full range of bacteriological examinations and identifications is provided including the supervision of water supplies, swimming bath waters, and widal tests to mention just a few. I wish to acknowledge gratefully the advice so readily given and the generous help and courtesy which has been extended at all times to us by the Director and his Staff.

(d) PROVIDED BY THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Family Planning Clinic

Now in its twelfth year it provides a service to the married who wish to plan their families and to the engaged wishing pre-marital advice. Instruction is given on methods of contraception and advice on sexual problems, sterility and infertility.

Details of the Clinic for the year are given below:

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	56
Number of patients new to F.P.A.	..	...	...	...	187
Number of patients transferring from other					
F.P.A. Clinics	...	...	...	...	58
Total of Individual Women attending	...	...	...	...	417
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	921

Analysis of New Patients
by Age Group at first visit

Under 20 years	..	..	..	26
20 - 24 years	..	..	..	51
25 - 29 years	..	..	..	57
30 - 34 years	..	..	..	22
over 34 years	..	..	..	31

Analysis of New Patients
by Number of Pregnancies

0 pregnancies	..	..	..	35
1 pregnancy	..	..	..	48
2 pregnancies	..	..	..	71
3 pregnancies	..	..	..	17
4 pregnancies	..	..	..	10
5 pregnancies	..	..	..	5
6 pregnancies	..	..	..	1

The Clinic is run by Dr. M. G. Orrell.

Cervical smears are also taken as part of the medical examination where these are considered advisable and during the year 316 smears were taken.

Mrs. Achurch of Ryhall and her band of voluntary workers have given every assistance and a keen appreciation of their help is voiced.

The sessions are held:

First Tuesday in each month	2.00 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.
Remainder of Tuesdays in each month	7.00 p.m. - 8.45 p.m.

Patients must have appointments for their first attendance and application should be made to Mrs. J. Achurch, Honorary Secretary, Local Branch of the Family Planning Association, Barn Hill House, Stamford. Telephone No. Stamford 2906, during clinic times. I am grateful to Mrs. S. Fleetwood, Branch Administrator, 82, Newland, Lincoln, for the statistical information.

(e) PROVIDED BY THE HOME OFFICE

Probation Service

Mr. Hodgson, Probation Officer attends the Barn Hill House on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

(f) OTHER SERVICES

Social Services Department

This is an amalgamation of the former Children's Department and the Welfare Department together with the Mental Health Welfare Section and the Home Help Section of the Local Health Authority. All problems relating to these services should be addressed to Mr. J. G. Smith, Team Leader of the South Area Social Services Department at the offices, 4, St. George's Street, Stamford. Telephone: Stamford 3011.

Home Helps: The service for Stamford and the surrounding Parishes of South Kesteven is still provided from Barn Hill House by Mrs. D. Hollins, the Area Home Help Organiser. The office hours are:

Monday to Friday: 8.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.

Telephone Number Stamford 2906.

Mr. H. Townsend, formerly Mental Welfare Officer, still has his office in Barn Hill where messages can be left for him.

Miss D. Ledward, formerly District Welfare Officer, has still her office accommodation in St. George's, Stamford. Telephone: Stamford 2384

The Department is also responsible for Child Care work and for services to the Chronically Sick and Disabled.

Moral Welfare

Miss Clark, Moral Welfare Worker attends the Barn Hill Clinic on alternate Fridays from 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. and will give interviews and advice to anyone requiring this service.

Marriage Guidance

The Marriage Guidance Counsellor is Mrs. J. W. Melrose of 19, Exeter Gardens, Stamford, and her advice is available by appointment.

Samaritans

This organisation is dedicated to helping those who feel that life has lost its meaning and is so little worthwhile that suicide seems a desirable alternative to carrying on. Help and advice is offered to those requiring it. They provide a flying squad. The Director of the Peterborough branch which is the nearest is:

Rev. Philip Carwood, St. Mary's Vicarage,
Eastfield Road, PETERBOROUGH. Telephone No. 3418

The Office Telephone No. is Peterborough 64848 and they now operate a twenty-four hour service from this number.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The responsibility for the supply and distribution of water is that of the South Lincolnshire Water Board on which the Borough is represented by two elected members.

A patent illustration of the help and interest at all times of Mr. N. A. Eagles, Engineer and Manager to the Board and his staff is the report from him which follows:

"The total quantities of water supplied to the Borough of Stamford and that part of Ketton Rural District supplied by the Board during the year was 383,134,000 gallons which was a reduction of 25,434,000 gallons (6.2 per cent). This represents a consumption in the combined area of 63.7 gallons per head per day. This high consumption figure does not truly reflect the actual consumption in the area but is more an indication of the serious wastage problem which the Board has in the area largely due to the very old system of mains and services in the centre of Stamford. Continuing efforts are being made to reduce this wastage by an extensive programme of night waste inspection.

"Allowing for the estimated consumption in Ketton Rural District, the net figure for consumption in the Borough of Stamford was approximately 340,000,000 gallons which was a reduction of 20,000,000 gallons (5.5 per cent) on the 1970 figure.

"Weekly bacteriological examination of water samples taken from source works and reservoirs was continued throughout the year. With one or two exceptions the results were all satisfactory and in all cases where the raw water was found to contain bacteriological pollution the corresponding samples of chlorinated water were of satisfactory quality.

"The following table shows the details of the various mains laid in the Borough during the year:

Location	Yards Laid		
	3"	6"	Total
Haddon Road	110		110
London Road		630	630
TOTALS	110	630	740

"As part of the Board's continuing programme of rationalisation of sources of supply, the sources at Ryhall Road, Belmesthorpe and Wootherope have been closed down during the year. To compensate for

thus the abstraction licence at Tallington has been increased from 1 m.g.d. to 2 m.g.d. and additional booster pumps are to be installed early in 1972. The source works at Pilsgate has also been redeveloped and the licence increased from an average 0.336 m.g.d. up to 1.25 m.g.d.

"The following table gives a typical chemical analysis from a sample of water from the Tallington supply:

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

	Parts per Million Tallington Supply					
pH	7.55
B.O.D. 5/20	-
C.O.D.	1.63
Suspended Solids	NIL
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.146
Albuminoid Nitrogen	-
Nitrite Nitrogen	NIL
Nitrate Nitrogen	NIL
Chloride as Cl.	27
Sulphate as SO ₄	111
Fluoride	0.34
Manganese	NIL
Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	253
Caustic Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	NIL
Total Hardness as Ca CO ₃	356
Calcium Hardness as Ca CO ₃	312
Dissolved Solids at 105°C.	474
Total Mineral Acidity	162
Residual Chlorine	NIL
Iron	0.243
Copper	0.38
Lead	NIL
Zinc	Present but not determined
Free CO ₂	14
Non-Carbonate Hardness	103 mg/l

Remarks

This water is very hard in character. This sample was found to contain Copper and Zinc and although these elements are within acceptable limits, it is unusual to find them present in this type of water. It is concluded that their presence is due to the copper and brass fittings on the sampling point. Excess elements injurious to health are absent.

Routine chemical sampling of all the sources of supply and from the mains themselves were carried on throughout the year. The

responsibility for all the chemical water analyses for the Water Board, by arrangement with the South Kesteven Rural District Council, has been that of the latter's Analytical Chemist. This arrangement has proved an ideal one as it allows for continuing local supervision and immediate sampling if there appears reason for it by someone who knows the normal characteristics of the source concerned. So valuable has it proved that the work has snowballed and a new Laboratory is in the course of erection.

Again this year sampling of the Whitewater supply to the South Lincolnshire Water Board Grid showed a high nitrate content of 43.8 parts per million and an associated source the even higher figure of 58 parts per million. Fortune indeed was it that although these sources produce some fifty million gallons a year they are so much diluted by admixture with other nitrate free waters as not to constitute a problem.

It will be observed that the estimated per capita consumption of water in the Borough has shown a slight decline this year of about six gallons per head per day. This it is assumed must have come from economies and a reduction in wastage, as it is hard to believe that it has resulted from a reduced demand on it for legitimate domestic purposes. In general terms the demands for water go on increasing year by year and this inevitably means exploiting new supplies natural or manmade. It is for this very reason that it has been found necessary to drown a valley near Empingham to form eventually a reservoir with a surface area greater than Windermere. One day large users of water will I am convinced have to repurify and reuse it over and over again instead of once only and discharging it to the sewers and the sea. Only thus will the drowning of valley after valley of fertile land be avoided - or very expensive desalination schemes postponed. So let us enjoy to the full but avoid wasting or contaminating in any way the vast but by no means inexhaustable underground water resources of the Lincolnshire Oolite limestone belt which are part of our National heritage.

The sources of Stamford's water are:

Tallington (part only)	285.896 million gallons
Pilsgate	118.482 million gallons
Whitewater	42.032 million gallons
Bonemill (part only)	33.994 million gallons

From this it will be seen that the Lion's Share comes from the Tallington supply and it is interesting that the Fluoride content of this is higher than most of the other sources and remains constant at 0.35 parts per million, so we would not have very far to go to bring it up to the optimum of 1 part per million for dental preservation and the control of dental caries.

No new projects of a capital nature have been commenced during the year. The extension of the trunk sewer from the present head in St. Leonard's Street to the disposal works is still under consideration. Even more important are the protracted plans for the new Sewage Disposal Works as the present is struggling along well outside its design capacity. Each month increases the pressure upon it as each new house is occupied, as each new Improvement Grant for bathroom facilities is completed and the increasing consumption of water per head of the population continues.

Just how urgent the need is can be well demonstrated by the following analyses of the final effluents.

	Suspended Solids	Biological Oxygen Demand	Nitrate as Nitrogen mg/l	Nitrite as Nitrogen mg/l	Free and Seltic Ammonia as Nitrogen
5th January	32	32	5.8	0.62	18.8
3rd February	45	31	14.0	0.62	13.5
3rd March	69	50	14.2	0.90	17.9
6th April	41	21	16.5	0.57	13.8
20th May	68	38	23.0	0.54	6.4
16th June	30	27	15.5	0.60	8.7
20th July	18	19	18.5	0.73	7.0
19th August	26	20	18.5	0.66	7.6
23rd September	67	34	12.3	0.61	11.95
7th October	37	19	17.0	0.55	11.4
9th November	47	20	17.0	0.59	12.0
7th December	45	34	18.5	0.59	17.5

The average figure for the year was therefore:

Suspended Solids	44 p.p.m.
Biological Oxygen Demand	29 p.p.m.

The Royal Commission standards are:

Suspended Solids not to exceed 30 parts per million
and Biological Oxygen Demand not to exceed 20 parts per million.

It will be seen that over the year only two samples complied and one of these two was right on the brink of what is permissible even under standards laid down by the Royal Commission in far away 1912. Knowing that the present Sewage Disposal Works are greatly overloaded and only

kept ticking over by recirculation, the Corporation have declared their intention to build a new Sewage Disposal Works at a site eastwards of Uffington to cope with the present and the projected 20,000 population of Stamford and the area which drains to it already.

Over a period of years the necessity for this has been stressed in this and similar reports. During the past two years only five of the regular monthly samples have been within the figures acceptable to the River Board. As an indication of how seriously they took the position it was their declared intention to ask the Planning Authority not to permit any further estate development in the Borough until the proposed and adequate disposal facilities were in operation. Never has so much public attention been directed to the problems of pollution control and the cleaning up of the Environment. These facts make it all the more extraordinary that whereas the proposals were fully investigated at a Ministry of the Environment Enquiry held in the Town Hall in March of 1971, the findings and decisions of the Ministry had not been received at the year's end, and until it was forthcoming nothing further could be done to give effect to the plans. In an effort to increase the effective capacity it has been decided to install Banks Clarifiers in the settling tanks as a means to reducing the suspended solids in the final effluent.

Sludge composting with straw has continued and occasionally there have been complaints of malodour but these have been fewer than in recent years and the problem much less than it was prior to the introduction of this system six years ago. The final product in spite of having some manurial value met with a limited demand from the Public but is useful for refuse tip cover.

Every year the Industrial Chemist adds many new chemical products to the multitude already available to the housewife in her domestic chores, the gardener in his war on pests, the businessman in pursuit of a better or at least a product with an edge on its competitors and the utilities for their own purposes. A proportion of these chemicals must inevitably reach the sewers and be potentially dangerous at the disposal works. When it is realised that the whole process is dependent upon an efficient and thriving bacterial action on the filter beds, it can be seen that a chemical threat to any part of the works and to these beds in particular can halt the purification process. From this it is axiomatic that the sewage disposal works now and in the future will require the services of a sewage works chemist who by constant laboratory surveillance can detect such threats and nip them in the bud. He can also maintain a close watch on the individual stages in the works as happens in all complex continuous bio-chemical engineering processes, which in effect is what this is.

The Corporation provide Public Conveniences in the Bus Station, The Sheep Market, Red Lion Square, Goldsmith Lane, Recreation Ground Road and East Street. Those in Red Lion Square were particularly well designed to offer a hygienic amenity and yet with an eye to vandal

resistance. It is a particularly distressing comment on the times that since they were opened they have been subjected to the onslaught of vicious and violent vandals. Due to aggressive, destructive attention rarely, if ever, are all the facilities provided operative at any one time - but no member of the public ever sees the damage done!

A weekly house door refuse collection service is given without limit being set so far as domestic premises are concerned to the number of bins, provided they are of standard type. Disposal is by modified controlled tipping at the disused quarry site at Yarwell. The space originally contracted for has been practically exhausted and an adjacent area has now been obtained. It is a costly business getting rid of trash with a round trip of twelve miles for the freighters and an annual rent of £694 for the hole in the ground. Nevertheless it is fortunate for Stamford to have one at all as safe sites in this water bearing area are exceedingly rare. Also no one could claim that a refuse dump is an aesthetic sight and so proposals if forthcoming are most likely to be hotly opposed on amenity grounds. All of these considerations decisively point to the inevitability of interested authorities getting together and constructing a Central Destructor Plant capable of dealing with the highly sophisticated contents of the contemporary trash bins. Polystyrene containers, plastic wrappings and such like materials are virtually indestructible except in such installations. May an appeal again be made to householders not to use anything but standard bins. It is the least that the Public can do to help the collectors in a trying occupation which they carry out with great good-humoured efficiency for the Public's good.

Rodent Control and the prevention of fly nuisance are given full attention at the site. The scheme for collection with an appropriate charge from business premises has worked smoothly to the satisfaction of all concerned.

As mentioned last year the door to door collection of paper and cardboard for salvage had to be discontinued owing to its impracticability with the present freighters. However, salvageable material is still collected from business premises. During the year the quantity so collected mounted to 112.32 tons and the price obtained was £1260.43 compared with 101 tons and £1131.50 in 1970.

Over past years litter on the streets apart from that inseparable from the street markets on Fridays and Saturdays has not been a great problem. It was also remarkable how quickly this was cleared up after the last trader had gone and the scene returned to its usual cleanliness and order. In the name of efficiency, economy and progress, this year a mechanical sweeper was brought into operation, thereby hoping to supersede the former street sweepers and their barrows. It was found however that parked cars and other obstacles prevented the same high standards to which the public had become accustomed and in deference to this some of the street sweepers were reinstated. This was just a further instance of what has been found in so many other areas. There is no complete replacement for a brain operated broom.

The Borough Swimming Baths have long been a most valuable asset to the Town during the summer months and have been appreciated over a wide surrounding area. Unfortunately owing to the vagaries of our climate they usually opened with temperatures around the 50° F. mark and throughout the season there would be periods when the low water temperature deterred all but the most spartan. Thanks to the impetus given through the collection of £1650 by the swimming baths appeals committee and the co-operation of the Council this has been ended by the installation of a gas fired heating system. No longer need the side be lined with shivering indecision. The swimming pool was opened on 19th April with a temperature varying between 70° F. and 74° F. and the attendance during the first three days was 1468, compared with 122 over the same period in 1970. During the season, 68,958 availed themselves of the recently improved facilities and the popularity of these is evidenced by the increased attendance from the 49,200 of the previous year. This success must bring a happy sense of achievement to all concerned in bringing the project to fruition. Maybe one day there will be a roof over it as well!

Strict attention is given to the Corporation's and the Club baths situated within or owned by Town residents, and at least weekly samples are taken from various points and depths in the pools for bacteriological examination. Ninety-one such samples were taken from the Corporation's baths and a further one hundred were taken from the heated High School Pool which is in use all the year round. Forty-eight were also examined from the heated Hospital pool and forty-one from the Stamford School bath. Daily sampling for chlorine content and for the acidity/alkalinity balance were also done as these are an essential part of bath management. The latter in particular can very quickly go wrong particularly if any method of chlorination other than a gas injection one is being used. During the season a number of chemical analyses were done to ascertain and correct faulty chemical composition.

A Minuteman Resuscitator is maintained in readiness at the Corporation's Baths throughout the season, but fortunately was not required on any occasion. Rules for the maintenance of Health and Cleanliness are displayed so that none should transgress in ignorance!

It is hoped that those whose eyes are set on having a swimming bath for their own or Club use, fully realise how much time, effort and scrupulous attention to detail is required in bath management to ensure the safety of all using it.

Due to pressure on school places it was mooted to have several classes from the Fane School at the Methodist Hall. This would have entailed a considerable amount of internal alterations and expense to comply with minimum requirements and it was with a sigh of relief that the decision was learnt in favour of prefabricated class rooms on the school site.

Mortuary facilities have continued to be satisfactory under the

repayment for use agreement entered into between the Corporation and the Stamford Hospital Management Committee for the use of their modern Hospital Mortuary.

Stamford has a Joint Burial Board who maintain a well kept cemetery, where there were ninety-eight interments during the year. There is adequate provision thereto for the foreseeable future. The nearest crematorium is at Marholm on the outskirts of Peterborough. This was used on seventy-four occasions for Borough residents which by strange coincidence was exactly the same number as on each of the two preceding years.

Last year a comment was made regretting the increased incidence of both head louse infections and scabies. This it is regrettable to say shows no sign of a reversal and can only be deplored at a time when the opportunities for good personal and domestic hygiene were never greater. Cleansing Stations were provided in wartime to treat the "Shelter Itch" skins so bane of those days. They were gradually closed as the memories faded and yet on several occasions this year the availability of one would have been much appreciated.

Thirty months have passed since it became an offence for an owner to allow his dog to soil the pavements. During that time neither man or dog has been apprehended for a breach, but several complaints about dogs causing nuisance to other people have been received. If their owners followed the well known Code of Conduct these would not arise.

1. Do not allow your dog to foul buildings, pavements, lawns and paths or open spaces where children play.
2. Never take your dog into a food shop.
3. Feed your dog at regular times.
4. Remove your dog from its own dishes and wash them separately.
5. Train your dog in elementary obedience so that he is under control at all times.
6. Do not allow your dog to be noisy to the disturbance of your neighbours.
7. Keep your dog on a lead anywhere near a road or where there are farm animals.
8. Make proper arrangements for the care of your pet if you are away from home.

These will make a happy dog and his owner blameless in this context.

Complaints of nuisances from noise have been received and investigated on numerous occasions. The causes for complaint have been as varied as they are difficult of cure. That from gas fired boilers to weekend late revellers might have been regarded as aspects of noisy fuel consumption but dogs barking at unusual hours, and car door banging and the revving up of engines in the quiet of the night have little in common except in their disturbing effects. However, unwanted sounds always give rise to much heart burning. There are no statutory limits on sound measured in decibels which makes efforts to reduce them very difficult but it is generally agreed and was included in the Wilson Report (1968) on Noise

that 75 decibels should not be exceeded in an Urban area measured at the nearest point to an occupied building. To give an idea of what this is the following table compares sound levels in familiar situations:

<u>Familiar Sounds</u>	<u>Sound Level in Decibels</u>
Jet aircraft taking off	120
Very noisy machine shop	100
Pneumatic Concrete Breaker (unmuffled) at 50 feet	85
Pneumatic Concrete Breaker (Muffled) at 50 feet	65
Average conversation	65
Quiet Office	50
Public Library	40

Suffice it to say that in the main those who create noise do their best to co-operate in reducing it, but much more research into and attention to sound proofing will be needed in future and much more stringent safeguards at Planning Level should be 'to rigour' if noise nuisance is to be kept within bounds in our mechanized society, and presbycusis (relative deafness to sounds of high frequency and a process of ageing accelerated by too much noise) is to be kept to a minimum.

The Wilson recommendations also state that in a situation such as Stamford 45 decibels within a house by day and 35 by night should be the highest permissible limits. In Scandinavian Countries those who permit a level in excess of 40 decibels inside a house with closed windows can be prosecuted. We still have a long way to go to meet such desirable standards.

I wish to acknowledge the ready help of and the information given by Mr Wall the Borough Surveyor and Engineer throughout the twelve months.

As a postscript to this section a warning is given of the dangers of lead based paints and primers. There have been nationally a number of cases of severe illness and even death of children who have eaten flakes of such paints. Safe alternatives should be used, both inside and outside the home.

THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
UNDER AGE GROUPS

	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Meningitis</u>	<u>Food Poisoning</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Infective Hepatitis</u>	<u>Dysentery</u>
0-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
2-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
3-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
4-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
5-	4	-	-	3	11	-	-
10-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
age unknown	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	-	-	34	2	2	-

The total incidence of notifiable disease, excluding Tuberculosis was very much lower than in the previous year being 43, compared with 317 and 1970 and 296 in 1969. This fall was due to the low incidence of Measles in an 'off' year, rather than to an outstandingly successful outcome of the Measles Vaccination Campaign!

There has been an increased demand for the Measles Vaccine as the mothers realise the advantage in having their children protected at a time when they are fit and at a time convenient to domestic arrangements. Furthermore, the word is passed around where the young mothers meet that the side effects which bedevilled the original vaccine very rarely arise now. It is realised that the wild virus brings with it many complications such as bronchitis, pneumonia, ear diseases and sometimes involvement of the nervous system. One hundred and fourteen Stamford children were vaccinated this year and in the County as a whole 1678 accepted protection.

It is pleasing to record that for the second year in a row there were no cases of either Dysentery or Food Poisoning.

Sixteen years have now elapsed since there was a case of Poliomyelitis in the Town. This freedom can only be maintained if the mothers ensure that their children are vaccinated against it during their first year of

life and again at school entrance age. This year the percentage protected showed a slight further decline to 73.4 per cent from the previous year's figure of 76.5 per cent. The equivalent figure for the County as a whole was 63.9 per cent.

Twenty-six years of freedom from Diphtheria has been achieved and a new generation has grown up which knows nothing of the dreadful effects of this disease. Their only knowledge is that whispered by their mothers and maybe too often ascribed to the mythology of an earlier generation and treated as such. Yet as in the case of Poliomyelitis, this battle against infection must be waged unromantically as both could very easily return to the stage if our 'herd immunity' is allowed to wane. It is a personal and a social obligation for every mother to have her own child protected and so play her part in the continuing campaign. Immunity is not ours of Right but only as a reward for conscientious endeavour. This year 74.6 per cent of infants were immunised - practically the same as in 1970. The equivalent figure for the County as a whole was 65 per cent. Each was a far cry from the 100 per cent which was recorded in 1969.

This seemingly dramatic fall is to a large extent statistical rather than real as computer programming does not keep abreast of immunising procedures. The statisticians only record children who have been fully protected by the 31st December of the year following their birth. This was reasonable when primary protection was carried out in the forth, fifth and sixth months. Contemporary expert advice has altered this to the sixth, eighth and twelfth months. This in effect means that babies born in November or December of any year - unless their mothers are watching the Calendar very closely and have a fine disregard for the Christmas season may well not complete their programme until the New Year's dawn. This means that their baby is protected but they are not counted amongst the blessed in that year or any other. Similarly a late return of immunisation record cards will also have an adverse effect on the statistics.

To make this point factually, last year (1970) the figures as given were 76.5 per cent for Poliomyelitis and 75.3 per cent for Diphtheria yet when the figures are corrected along the lines indicated above, it transpires that 89.5 per cent of our babies born in 1969 were protected against this disease and 90.7 per cent against Poliomyelitis. This presents a much more creditable and credible picture and underlines the fallibility of statistics and statisticians.

The comparatively new Rubella Vaccine has created considerable interest and demand for it. It was decided accordingly to offer it to the parents of all girls who had not already had German Measles, as part of the School Health Service. The outcome of this was that 247 took advantage of the opportunity and it is fitting to thank the Heads of all the School concerned for their wholehearted co-operation.

It is indicative of the now generally disseminated knowledge that German Measles in an expectant mother in the first three months of her pregnancy puts her baby at a very high risk of being born disabled, including deaf, blind, or other major handicaps, if the pregnancy is allowed to proceed. How infinitely better it is to ensure immunity before even the most precocious can suffer the risk and the anxiety - namely before the age of thirteen.

At this acceptance rate it will soon be reasonable to vaccinate the boys too and eradicate the reservoir of infection in the Community.

Infective Hepatitis, a form of jaundice of virus origin occurred on two occasions. The usual preventative precautions were taken in respect of food handlers and blood donors in the families affected.

There were no cases of Weil's Disease this year, another disease presenting with jaundice and an occupational hazard to all who work in rat frequented places. All Council employees whose work may take them to such places are given a card of precautions to carry with them - and act upon! These are available to any employer, who has personnel working in risk situations, on application to the Health Department.

Rat control and that of other vermin is carried out for the Corporation by Contractors. The war against "Rattus Rattus" goes on inexorably and with great success as the few "takes" on sewer baiting and the very low incidence of calls for help indicate. There is no evidence here of the Warfarin resistance which has arisen in Eastern Britain.

At the Barn Hill Clinic during the year, seventy-eight from Stamford were vaccinated against Smallpox and also eleven from the surrounding villages. This is less than half of those in recent years and is a reflection of the latest advice from the Department of Health. Their experts pointed to the fact that the risk of importation into Britain was so slight, that the small risk attached to Vaccination of young children was nonetheless greater than the risk of their getting the disease and therefore advised against the routine vaccination. How far the present immunity is due to the past good vaccination state remains to be seen. Certainly the statement must have been cool comfort when there was a case earlier this year in Cumberland, and to me too, had one of the local suspects during the past twelve months been the real thing. Doubtless ready help from the advisers would be available to deal with the contacts?

Numerous requests for and advice on vaccination against influenza are received. Whilst the present vaccine confers a marginal benefit in some cases and is certainly worth giving in individual cases of cardiac or respiratory disease or to the elderly and to key workers, it has not proven its worth sufficiently for mass usage. The difficulty lies in producing a vaccine which will cover all the many strains of the influenza virus.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tubercle were recorded during the year but for the fifth year in succession the non-Pulmonary type was unrepresented. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1970 was two fresh cases.

Though patients with active infection from pulmonary tuberculosis are now fortunately comparatively rare there are still a considerable number of past sufferers from the disease in the community. This is demonstrated by the fact that there were eighty-one such patients in attendance at the Local Chest Clinic, and one of these was a new case. Of the total, two had a positive sputum and were therefore in an infectious state at some time during the year.

The close contact between our Health Visitor and the Chest Physician and his staff, which has been fostered and maintained over the past nine years remains of the greatest importance to all concerned in the eradication of the disease and in the welfare of the patient and his family.

The demise of the Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board was regretted. Arrangements were made for a more formal service to be given through the static X-ray units at the larger Hospitals and the Family Doctors. Open sessions without formalities comparable with the old Mass Radiography Units are being made available to the general public at Lincoln, Leicester and Nottingham General Hospitals by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

The B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme for Senior School Children operated along the usual lines:

	No. of consents received	No. Tested	Absent from Test	OF THOSE TESTED			Absent from Positive Reading	Absent from Vaccination
				Negative	Vaccinated	Positive		
Stamford College	8	7	1	Nil	Nil	7	Nil	Nil
Stamford Fane	87	79	8	67	44	10	2	23
Stamford Boys	104	103	1	91	91	10	2	Nil
Stamford Girls	104	96	8	90	88	6	Nil	2
Stamford Exeter	66	64	2	51	50	12	1	Nil
TOTALS	369	349	20	299	273	45	5	25

VENEREAL DISEASE

The numbers of new cases from the Borough and adjoining South Kesteven area attending the Peterborough District Hospital clinic is ninety-two. The corresponding figure for 1970 was eighty-seven and in 1969 it was fifty-three. Last year there were 592 new cases at the Peterborough District Hospital. Still the number of afflicted acolytes of Aphrodite go on rising in spite of warnings and now challenge annually the numbers of those affected with measles. As the measles vaccination programme expands they will soon be head of the league of communicable diseases! Will those infected find consolation in the fact that it was self-inflicted, or did they deludedly think The Pill would prevent it? The Pill is no protection against Promiscuity.

HOUSING

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Statistics of new houses erected in the Borough during 1971:

Built by Local Authority

Traditional Brick Houses (3 bedrooms)	30
Houses in course of erection at end of year	NIL

Built by Private Enterprise

Traditional Brick Houses (2 bedrooms)	12
(3 bedrooms)	65
(4 bedrooms)	9
Houses in course of erection at end of year	43

APPLICANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

(As supplied by the Housing Department at December, 1971)

Effective Housing List	238
Old Persons Dwelling Applicants	95
Miscellaneous Applicants	53

During the year, the following houses have been dealt with under the Council's scheme for eradicating unfit houses:

Demolition Orders	NIL
Closing Orders	7
Undertakings not to relet	5

In addition, two Closing Orders were made on properties previously subject to Undertakings not to relet.

There is no slum clearance problem in the Borough but close attention has to be paid to the numerous older properties to ensure that they have not suffered a gradual decline into the unfit category as the housing situation is never a static one.

The Edinburgh Road Housing project has been dogged with misfortunes after the long delay at Government level which separated Phases Two and Three the forty-five houses in the latter Phase were satisfactorily completed and made a very modern and welcome addition to the Corporation's Housing Assets. All then seemed clear to proceed with the 223 houses in Phase Four. Tenders were invited and one accepted but this later was abrogated and so though the year started full of promise at the end there were no houses under construction. However, a fresh tender had been agreed and there was a sanguine hope of an early start in 1972. Attention was also being given to possible sites for further Elderly Persons dwellings as these are always in great demand.

During the same period private enterprise completed 86 houses with

a further 43 in various stages of erection. These figures showed a fall on those of the previous year of 34 and 20 respectively. House building in fact has shown a fall over each of the past two years. This is a reflection of the high cost of building and of mortgage rates, not of a diminution in the inherent demand for new houses in the Borough.

Undoubtedly there will be increased activity in the Building sector when the resources of the new Sewage Disposal Works become available. With possible sites so very limited within the present boundaries it is inevitable that elbow room in the Newstead area will have to be sought, with of course, the co-operation of all the other Parties concerned.

The seventy-five flatlets of the two Warden supervised schemes for the Elderly continue their great work in helping our Older Citizens. Unfortunately there are always more aspirants for this accommodation than there are vacancies. The Community spirit which flourishes in each of the Groups is perhaps equally beneficial in its effect to the comfort of the dwellings themselves.

With advancing age there must inevitably be some residents who by virtue of chronic illness and disability present a "risk" situation to themselves and an anxiety to the Warden. However, the resident is entitled to her home as long as rent is paid and she remains ostensibly capable of maintaining her independence with or without outside help. The position as between independence and dependence on occasion can be a very difficult one but happily so far has been resolved by consent.

It is needful to stress again that the Warden is a line of communication for all the tenants to the source of the appropriate help and not a provider of that help herself though naturally always most anxious to assist in any emergency; as has been proved on many occasions!

The policy of ensuring that there is not an over preponderance of new tenants in the "at risk" category is also most important for the sake of the Warden and the Group's welfare, so that there are some fit to assist their less favoured neighbours. It is disappointing that those who control the grant allocations cannot see that it might be the salvation of the group as a whole to allocate a vacancy to some needy younger person who could assist along the lines indicated. At present if such a person were admitted and was under retirement age, the grant would be forfeited.

The Council has always been fully aware of the inestimable benefit of these Grouped Schemes and are presently on the lookout for a site for another Group. To be of maximum benefit this should be situated on level ground and yet within easy reach of the facilities and activities in or near the Town Centre.

The Almshouses which Stamford has inherited from Medieval times and which were the contemporary concept of the present day Group have now all

been either completely modernised or greatly improved as during this year Truesdale's has had gas heating installed which will be a great asset to the tenants.

A "points" scheme is not used for Council House lettings all the basis is the date of acceptance on the effective Housing List. However all applications for special consideration on medical or medico-social grounds are very carefully investigated and assessed. If a case for priority is made out this invariably meets with the fullest sympathy and help of the Health and Housing Committees. This system allows for the marrying of the appropriate available housing to the particular individual need, without losing sight of the legitimate aspirations of those on the general list. Its success also reflects the meticulous attention given to each application by the Housing Officer. During the year there were thirty-two such applications and investigations.

The quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee for Children at Risk and for the Welfare of the Elderly respectively bring a wide spectrum of opinion and help in the medico-social aspects of housing and have continued to make valuable contributions to helping the need.

The Council have again given consideration to practical schemes for bringing some of the 389 older type Council houses up to modern standards, but though one house was modernised as a prototype and limited schemes considered, alas the cost of doing so has so far appeared to be prohibitive. That condensation dampness is a very real problem and one which can only be efficiently countered by space heating has been accepted. In recognition of this fact the Council - associated with the East Midlands Gas Board formulated a central heating scheme. This consists in allowing tenants to instal central heating on their own account by direct contract with the Board, or to arrange for the Council to do so on their behalf; paying them the rent which is raised appropriately. This scheme has met with a very gratifying response and at the end of the year 161 Council houses had had central heating installations completed and there were also thirty-four conversions from solid fuel to gas.

The National Coal Board also co-operated and a show house with a solid fuel system was on view at 6, York Road and attracted a large number of visitors.

There are eight Council houses without bathrooms, in addition to the not inconsiderable number in which the kitchen sink has to serve the double function of personal ablutions and domestic and kitchen washing-up. It is to be hoped that the twin demands do not often overlap!

The Ministry of the Environment have asked the Council to survey areas within their jurisdiction suitable for re-development in a comprehensive manner taking both housing and environmental aspects equally into consideration in the overall plan. Such a survey in the Borough showed the challenging possibility of such a development scheme in the Bentley Street - Conduit Road area. It would be a great environmental asset to that part of the Town.

The Council's housing list shows that the numbers wanting Council accommodation have decreased by sixteen on the Effective List but increased by eight for those requiring Elderly Persons dwellings compared with 1970. These figures demonstrate how unrelenting is the demand for Elderly Person's accommodation. This has now reached a proportion of one in four. This is even higher than the figure of one in five of several past years.

Those who visit elderly and handicapped people in their present homes could find many more who would willingly and with gratitude move from overlarge houses to small compact dwellings if they had the chance. It is however in all too many instances a prerequisite that Elderly Person's accommodation must be on the ground floor if it is to be truly relevant to the needs and limitations of advancing years.

Happily it can be recorded that plans are far advanced for the construction of twelve flatlets for the elderly in Water Street which should be an ideal situation for those lucky enough to obtain a tenancy.

To assist a substantially physically handicapped person in Islington was purchased by the Welfare Authority and installed by the Council in that person's home. Interior alterations of a radical nature to suit handicapped persons' individual needs were carried out in two houses, in addition to more routine matters such as bathroom and toilet aids. The Council with 1627 properties to manage and with so many Rate and Rent schemes to administer still do all that is within their power to equate housing resources to the Community's needs. They have a proud record behind them and a challenging future of house upgrading and environmental improvement before them. Bricks and mortar and planning are mostly as ephemeral as other human affairs and so require constant review and reappraisal.

There was no case of statutory overcrowding during the year. It must be admitted that to be statutorily overcrowded a proportion of the family would need to be on swift work otherwise they would not fit in, particularly as overcrowding by natural increase is excluded when head counting! The Law should be made more realistic in this matter.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough but those in the neighbourhood have helped to maintain an adequate and fully inspected supply of meat to the Town.

Because of the very special status which it holds in the list of the very young, the invalid and the elderly, milk is subjected to a very close scrutiny from the point of production, through its long journey to the milk factory and the retailer until it is deposited on the customer's doorstep. It is unfortunate that so many authorities and Inspectors should be involved by Statute and that they should wall so much in ignorance of what their colleagues may be doing. Involved are the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Milk Marketing Board, the Local Health Authority and the Health Department of the District Council who are responsible for the serving of a Compulsory Pasteurisation Order when this is necessary. It was heartening that a move was afoot by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to get those who have been mentioned together round a table and ration like the taking of milk samples. All the milk supplies in Stamford are heat treated either by pasteurisation or sterilised. This is a very necessary precaution to avoid the risk of contracting Undulant Fever carried by the Brucellae organism, which is responsible for contagious abortion in cows and is transmissible to man through raw milk. Whilst the home front appears secure it is very needful to make sure when on holiday that the milk you buy is equally safe. Cream of course is also included in the warning as a strawberry tea with raw cream has been responsible for conveying just such an infection. Only a heat treated milk is a safe milk. In England and Wales there were in fact 681 notified cases of human brucellosis during the year and the incidence is undoubtedly higher than this. Meantime, the Ministry of Agriculture are advancing steadily along the road leading to the eradication of Brucellosis from the dairy herd by their voluntary eradication scheme. This year eighty-eight dairy herds in the County were registered as accredited and a further forty-nine dairy herds were undergoing tests. Only two producer/retailers are outside the scheme. All bacteriological samples taken this year were brucellae free so far as Stamford was concerned.

Another contaminant which is looked for is Penicillin in milk. Though dairy farmers have been warned of the necessity for not marketing milk from a cow within forty-eight hours of the completion of treatment with an antibiotic, it still does occur though there is a price penalty if it is detected. At a large dairy which supplies many in Stamford the milk from each producer is sampled for antibiotics. In a series of 3,474 samples, twenty showed significant quantities of antibiotics and pasteurisation does not remove it, nor any other process to which it is subjected.

The painstaking surveillance of Food Premises, food preparation and handling by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Fox, to which comment was made in last year's report has continued throughout this. It is a success

story of co-operation on the part of the staff of so many businesses with one whose approach is known to be fair and whose advice is fully appreciated. The results over the past two years can be clearly seen. One cannot help deplored the loss of valuable frozen food stores which occur when Electricity cuts occur. Most vulnerable are the frozen food display cabinets which can only maintain a sufficiently low temperature for a short period in a power cut situation. Wasted food, particularly protein, in a starving world must be grievous to the great majority of people.

Meantime the food technologists are busy. Synthetic milk is being commercially produced in this country and there is a steady demand for it from Hospitals and for special requirements. The production of meat steaks from oil is contemporaneously feasible - so maybe it will not be long before : not unusual order for the garage forecourt will be "two gallons in the tank and a half kilo of steak for my supper please". Doubtless these "advances" will bring new surveillance problems in their wake. My colleague Mr. Fox will be reporting more fully on this subject and further comment therefore will be left to him.

In his report Mr. Cooper, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the County states:

"The aspects of the Food and Drugs legislation with which this Department is mainly concerned, relate to the composition, labelling and advertising of food, and these form a valuable adjunct to our other work in the field of consumer protection and the enforcement of trading standards.

"During the year, 400 samples were obtained throughout the County and these were examined either in the Department's laboratory at Stamford or by the Public Analyst, Mr. E. V. R. Fogden, whose laboratory is in Nottingham. Thirty-nine samples were taken in Stamford as follows:

Butter	1	Malt Vinegar	1
Bread and flour	1	Meat Products	1
Cream Products	1	Milk	20
Easter Egg	1	Sausage (Pork)	6
Fish Products	1	Soft drinks	1
Ice Cream	4	Tomato Ketchup	1

"It will be noticed that the number of samples taken in the area is greater than in previous years, and to these may be added over 150 samples of nationally distributed foods which, although obtained in other parts of the County, may, in view of their wide distribution, be said to apply in some part to the South of the County also.

"In general the standard of food in the County has been found to be most satisfactory, although there have been a number of cases where further action was considered to be necessary. Written warnings were sent with

respect to a stale Easter Egg and bread which contained a piece of coke; both of these cases occurred in Stamford.

'Legal proceedings were instituted in two cases:

1. Following a complaint from the South Kesteven Rural District C. baker was fined £5 at Bourne Magistrates' Court for selling a loaf of bread which contained a fly.
2. A routine sample of soft ice cream was found to have a fat content seriously below the required standard. The responsibility for the fault was passed to the manufacturers of the mixture used in the preparation of the ice cream, and they were fined £10 at Stamford Magistrates' Court.'

Mr Cooper concludes his report by saying that his staff will be prepared to accept all complaints under the 'not of the nature, substance and quality' heading of the Food and Drugs Act. This would have the advantage of making for uniformity throughout the area.

FOOD POISONING

No case of Salmonellosis or other food poisoning was notified.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

In no instance during the year was it necessary to remove any person to Hospital or Welfare Accommodation against their will as provided for in this Act.

It was however, only narrowly missed on one occasion when a man living alone was found to be living in squalor in an upstairs room and access could only be obtained to him through an upstairs window. He at first adamantly refused to go into Hospital in spite of being virtually bed-bound, but in the end he listened to the voice of persuasion and agreed to go voluntarily. He settled well and made a good recovery.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Council subscribes to the Health Education Council and makes full use of the Posters and health propaganda material provided by this membership. There were no public campaigns this year but the inculcation of Health Education went on through the individual efforts of Medical, Public Health Inspector's and Nursing staffs in the course of their everyday duties. Similarly the Home Helps are taught Health Education so that they too can advance the cause of good hygiene and healthy living in the homes which they visit. It is reiterated that all workers in the Domiciliary field should be ever on the alert to draw attention to potential hazards to young and old within the home and so help to reduce the toll of death and disabilities from home accidents, which exceed those in places of work and on the roads, put together.

COMMENTARY

For several years past pollution has been the subject of comment in those reports. This year there has been a National and International awakening to the seriousness of the situation, which through apathy and the lack of public knowledge has been allowed to reach quite unacceptable levels. Mention has been made of local incidents in the body of this review and it is worthwhile looking at them in the context of the overall problem. The Affluent Society is also an Effluent one.

Since the last war we have been bombarding the countryside including our gardens with fusillade of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, altering the balance of nature in the process. The cost has been truly alarming by the incorporation into the environment of the persistent chemicals of the D.D.T. and organochlorine group and the warnings of Helen Carson in "Silent Spring" which went so long unheeded have largely come to pass. To add insult to injury some 250 insect species are now resistant to pesticides of one sort or another. As one pesticidal agent becomes outmoded some new offspring of the chemist's brain is found to right temporarily the now disturbed ecological balance.

Also in the name of food production there has been an enormous increase in the use of nitrogenous fertilisers, which are only too likely to be the cause of the increasing nitrification of our water resources.

There are over 500,000 man made chemicals in use today and yet apart from knowledge of the specific uses to which they are put, little is known as to what effect they have when disposed of into the environment either singly or in combination. The simplest example of this is the dire effects of mercury salts after conversion in the sea into the much more toxic methyl mercury. This has an adverse effect on fish and necessitated the banning of some species for human use.

It has been common knowledge that dangerous chemicals such as cyanides have been dumped on refuse tips without let or hindrance. How many other dangerous substances have found a similar resting place to await recognition later that they should not have been there in the first place. Lead fumes have produced chronic poisoning in industrial workers and yet in deference to the motorist's demand for a high efficiency at low cost engine, leaded petrol are still causing daily pollution of the atmosphere. Maybe it is as well that at the current rate of usage all the known world resources of these two metals - together with silver, gold, platinum, tin and zinc, will have been exhausted by 1990 and long before then alternatives will have to be found. We can but hope that too much irreparable damage will have been done by their improvident misuse before then.

Even the atmosphere we breathe is being insidiously and significantly altered by the build up of Oxides of Carbon from the astronomical quantities of fossilised fuels - oil, coal and natural gas - which are being consumed

around the world. The amount of carbon dioxide added annually to the atmosphere is estimated at 14 billion metric tons and this is increasing year by year. What can buffer these phenomenal additions to our environment?

Turning from Ecology to Sociology, the picture of Pollution is much the same with the adulteration of the old standards of ethics and morality. These have been abandoned as not applicable to this enlightened day and age when the liberty of the individual to express himself at all levels must not be challenged. Inhibitions are regarded as encumbrances and personal restraint as an outmoded idea and the Permissive Society of the Seventies is with us. Has this heralded freedom or have the technological and industrial achievements and the high living standards brought happiness and fulfillment?

By the end of 1971 the abortion rate was running at 150,000 a year of which 12,300 involved girls under sixteen years of age.

100,000 Divorce petitions were filed during the year - the first of the Divorce Reform Act.

Veneral Disease is epidemic and is rapidly taking over from Measles as the most common of all communicable diseases.

Indictable crimes have doubled in the past ten years.

Illegitimacy has shown an increase rather than a decrease since Family Planning became available to all.

There are 600,000 mentally disordered persons in England and Wales of whom some thirty per cent were occupying a Hospital bed during the year.

It is estimated that there are 400,000 alcoholics in this Country. Seven thousand of these are admitted to Hospital each year for their complaint and in the same period there were 80,000 arrests for public drunkenness and 30,000 arrests for drunken driving. It is estimated that seven in every thousand men have a drinking problem.

Attempted suicide has also increased by many times in the past eight years.

Vandalism of Public and private property is apathetically accepted as part of the contemporary scene.

At a time of unparalleled opportunities for positive health and education, for culture and the enjoyment of the advances in science, it is distressing that these indices of social disintegration should be so patent.

The Sociologists have an enormous problem on their hands, as also

have all engaged in Community Health and in Health Education. Far from being gloomy about the future - there are enormous forces dedicated to caring for others and for Good at work also. By recognising the size of these ills for what they are and by tackling them energetic ally they can be overcome for the Health and Happiness of our Society, but this can only come about if public opinion is informed and active.

This year has seen far-reaching and fundamental changes either being ushered in or envisaged for the near future. The new Social Services Departments in County and County Borough Councils have taken up their work. They have been formed by an amalgamation between a wide sweep of interests and disciplines - Child care, Home Helps, Care of the Handicapped, Welfare of the Elderly and the Needy. It will make for integration and it is hoped a more streamlined service to the Public. In many aspects it is logical but in the incorporation of Mental Welfare the rationale is less obvious and was against the advice of much expert opinion. From the Community Health view point they are to be wished every success in the great task to which they have been called. There are bound to be difficulties as in shotgun nuptials, legal union and the marriage of minds are not always consummated automatically. The full co-operation of the many other organisations working in the field of Community Care is assured and it is to this end that the continued functioning of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Children at Risk and the Welfare of the Elderly are so fully justified. Here, Health Service personnel, Health Visitors, Health Inspector, Family Doctor, Consultant Physician in Geriatrics, Senior Nursing Officer of the Geriatric Hospital, Meals on Wheels organiser, Occupational Therapist, the Housing Managers and representatives of the Department of Health and Social Security meet their colleagues of the Local Government Social Services to discuss geriatric problems of mutual interest and to get to know each other. The latter is possibly the most important raison d'être of all. Similarly in the children's sphere the Health and Social Service teams are joined by the School Welfare and Education representatives, the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C., the Probation Officer, the Housing Officers, the Headmaster of Kesteven's Special School for the Educationally Sub-normal, representatives of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Clerk of Bourne Urban District Council. Such well-based and entirely voluntary membership brings a lively feeling of co-operation and team spirit. Moreover working to a common end can do nothing but contribute to the Commonwealth for in spite of what Euclid said the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts.

The outline plan for the revolutionary changes in Local Government was published this year and inevitably until the full design is known and the structure in operation in April, 1974, stout hearts and cool heads will be needed.

Whatever the final outcome it will be vitally necessary that the man in the street should still have a big say in the running of the services which impinge so intimately on his everyday life. Similarly those who are appointed to administer the services on his behalf must be

accessible to him when in doubt or perplexity. After all this is what democracy is all about.

The future of community medicine and the Local Government Health Service is very much in doubt. No mention is made of them in the Local Government Re-organisation proposals. It is assumed that they will be the responsibility of the proposed Area Health Boards but it is unthinkable that the co-operation and mutual respect built up over a hundred years or more between the Council's medical advisors and the Council he has sought to serve will be allowed to wilt and disappear in the whirlwind of change. Medical advice, to have full validity must be equated to the local needs and environment of the Community to which it is addressed and this can only be achieved by a personal knowledge of as many of those who live within it as possible and by getting fully acquainted with their problems as a group. This can only be achieved at local level and by harmonious working with their elected representatives. Whatever the final structure is, it is to be hoped that the Community Physician of the future will still be able to work and advise within an area small enough for a really personal service to be maintained.

Another major reorganisation is that of the River and Water Boards and the disposal of sewage. This envisages responsibility for water from the time it is precipitated as rain or snow, its collection and distribution, its purification until its final discharge to the rivers and the seas, to be that of one Regional Authority. The country it is planned will be divided up for this purpose into ten of such comprehensively responsible units. It seems to be a reasonable idea for the best use and conservation of a vital National asset. Certainly it will be very radical as twenty-two River Authorities, 160 Water Undertakings, over 1200 sewage Authorities and 2,000 miles of Canals and Rivers separately administered by the British Waterworks Board will be amalgamated into these ten Regional all purpose Water Boards.

The Kings Mill Centre run by the Stamford Society for Mentally Handicapped Children has had another busy and successful year. It is dependent on voluntary helpers for its running and its financial resources are entirely voluntary donations. Mrs. Holt and her dedicated helpers have the great satisfaction of seeing the result of their work in the response which they get from the eight to ten severely handicapped children who use it every Tuesday and Friday. Their mothers too derive great benefit from being able to leave their children in skilled care and being able to enjoy freedom for other personal and domestic pursuits. It is most humanitarian work and should be given every support for in this as in so many other projects it is not the number involved but the magnitude of the individual need which is the true yardstick. Incidentally, it highlights one of the anomalies of the Health and Social Services. There are mentally handicapped children living in the surrounding rural area who would benefit enormously from one or two days a week at the Centre but transport forbids this. Though the excellence of the work done is unchallengeable it is not a recognised treatment centre in the

eyes of officialdom and therefore neither ambulance or Hospital car services can be used. There is no system of reimbursement of volunteers using their own car and yet in these days of high petrol and maintenance costs it is unrealistic to expect volunteers to fetch and carry children indefinitely without at least a token reimbursement. A scheme such as that run in Shropshire through the W.R.V.S. would answer this problem.

On two other days of the week the Centre is used by the Play Group for deprived children organised by the Social Services Department and staffed by voluntary workers. Here again the helping hand brings new experiences to the children and a respite for their overburdened mothers as well as providing a great opportunity for the social training of both.

The Physically Handicapped Society through their Good Companions Club continue to provide social contact, help and entertainment for those with physical disabilities. They have social gatherings in the Congregational Hall on alternate Thursdays throughout the year and organise outings to places of interest - including Whipsnade and Skegness - during the summer months.

The Stamford branch of the Kesteven Society for the Blind organise a club for blind members at the Darby and Joan Club every Tuesday afternoon. As well as assistance from relatives and friends, the ladies of the Stamford Inner Wheel Club also help on Club days.

The British Red Cross Society through the medium of the Darby and Joan Club, to which all retirement pensioners can belong, have over many years brought companionship and entertainment to very many of our Older Citizens and brought new interests into their lives from which they have benefitted accordingly. Red Cross members also organise and assist at the Blood Donor sessions, assist in various social and liaison activities in the Hospital and run the Home Nursing Aid depot for the local Health Authority from their premises in St. George's Square.

The Round Tableers in association with the Old People's Welfare Committee again through arduous collecting, were able to supply generous Christmas parcels to 289 elderly persons living alone either as individuals or as couples. It is a little regrettable that in some cases both recipients and non-recipients have seen fit to regard this as their Right rather than a seasonal gesture of Good Will by the large numbers of voluntary donors who made it possible.

The W.R.V.S. run the Meals on Wheels service. At present 54 persons are supplied with meals either three or four times a week and in a few exceptional cases on five occasions. This year the innovation of 1970 was continued and fifteen who otherwise would have gone without were served with a full Christmas dinner in their own homes. This certainly is the true spirit of the Festival. At normal times the meals are cooked in the Central School Kitchen and Messrs. Mirrlees Blackstone filled in during the holidays. This arrangement had to be discontinued as it was excessively costly to the firm. Fortunately, when it looked as though

improvised methods might be necessary the Hospital came to the rescue and this enabled the Christmas and Boxing Day meals to be provided. Either foil or Hotlock containers are used for the delivery; effected by a rot. of voluntary drivers and helpers. This is a vitally essential service in maintaining the nutrition and well being of many elderly.

The W.R.V.S. also run a Clothing Department which continues to flourish and large quantities of clothing were received and dispatched including blankets for East Pakistan as well as to many recipients nearer home at the request of the Health and Social Services Department. Members also assist at the canteen, St. John's Hospital, Broadbridge Heath once a month and with collection for and dispatch to the Armed Services of magazines and books.

Christ Church run a Luncheon Club on Wednesdays, for up to twenty elderly. They have morning coffee, then lunch, followed by some form of entertainment and then a cup of tea before returning home. A Luncheon Club is also run by the Salvation Army along much the same lines. This Club is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at the Tuesday Club, hairdressing facilities are available for those elderly people requiring it.

The Action Groups of the High School and Stamford School continue their good work in bringing practical help to elderly and needy people and social contact to the lonely. The relationship built up between young and old seem often much more relaxed and acceptable than where the discrepancy in ages is less noticeable, maybe because there is no sense of patronisation.

The Voluntary Emergency Service of the Youth Clubs is always willing to help also. In addition to the Services and activities which have been mentioned there are very many acts of generosity and kindness from gifts of coal to gifts of flowers, to changing library books, fetching pensions and running errands which demonstrate that Stamford's is a Caring Community. The tradition built up over a thousand years and exemplified in the many almshouses of the old town and the medieval endowments which still benefit it, is still alive and active. The helping hand to those in need is rarely missing for so many agree with what Montaigne wrote in one of his essays:

"He that lives not somewhat to others,
Liveth little to himself"

Much has been said by many regarding what the older generation expect of their children but not so much of the reverse side of the coin. Recently a young people's discussion on the subject of the ideal parents made the following qualifications for those seeking so to be:

Not too soft	Understanding of our point of view
Not too generous	Loving
Not too strict	Consistent
Sense of humour	Ready to discuss and give reasons
Give and take	Giving us the freedom to be ourselves
Approachable	Trust us

It is an awesome list but few would challenge its validity.

Liaison has been maintained with the Hospital Services as I have continued my Service on the new Maternity Liaison and Control of Infectious Diseases Committees of the Peterborough and Stamford Hospital Group. Also as a founder member and the only doctor in the Community Medicine field on it, it has been my privilege to be associated with the District Postgraduate Medical Education Committee. After two years of planning and money raising for the project it is hoped that the Foundation Stone of the new centre beside the District Hospital at Peterborough will be laid early in 1972. It will serve for many years to keep all the Doctors, whatever their diverse disciplines may be, and all the Dentists up to date with new ideas, treatments and techniques. It is intended to incorporate all that is best in teaching and Audio-Visual aids and at the same time to provide a Meeting Place for an exchange of views. The project will cost some £60,000 of which more than £25,000 has already been raised by voluntary subscriptions and it is most gratifying for me as a steering committee member to have had this Council numbered amongst the backers of this project, which I know will in the long run greatly benefit all the community whom we represent.

Entering as we all are into two years of fundamental change in our allegiances, in our Local Government, in our environmental services and indeed in our lives, it is not inappropriate to say:

God grant us the serenity
To accept the things we cannot change,
The courage to change what we can
And the wisdom to know the difference.

In drawing this report to a close I wish to acknowledge again the always ready and dependable support and help of my colleague, Mr. Fox, in the many problems which we share over a twelve month period. Mr. Dawson seems to be thriving successfully under his tutelage.

To Councillor Seamer and the members of the Health Committee I offer my sincere thanks for their continuing interest in and concern for all aspects of the Department's work and the Medico-Social conundrums presented to them. This is a happy and caring Committee. Likewise I thank the members of the Corporation.

It gives me much pleasure to record the conscientious and most efficient way in which Mrs. Stevenson has coped with the secretarial side

of the work, including reports and statistics. Her imminent leaving is deeply regretted by all the Department as her courtesy, tact and cheerful imperturbability will be greatly missed.

Immersed as he inevitably is in the multi-faceted demands of his profession and the never ending spate of Government Acts and injunctions, admonitions and addendums, the Town Clerk has always been most ready to help incisively with any problems brought to him. I acknowledge this gratefully.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the Borough Treasurer's assistance in helping me to follow Mr. Micawber's budgetting advice and also the kindly help of other members of the Staff.

Finally it is my real pleasure to offer Dr. Hugh Mackey my warm thanks for so kindly holding the fort for me during my absences.

H. G. J. M.
H. G. J. M.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector
for the Year 1971

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Stamford.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report in respect of the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department during 1971.

1. HOUSING

The aspects of housing for which the Public Health Department are responsible are: the clearance of houses which are unfit for human habitation; the repair of houses; the improvement of individual houses; the improvement of house as part of the policy of improving housing areas as a whole; the inspection and control of houses which are let off for multi-occupation, and the inspection of houses in connection with Rent Act legislation.

Slum Clearance

During the year a total of thirteen dwellings were dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, as follows;

Dwellings made the subject of Closing Orders	9
Dwellings subject to Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	4

Dwellings are dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 if it is considered that they are unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense. The statutory standard of fitness is laid down in the Housing Act, 1957 and it is quite a modest standard.

Stamford does not have a Slum Clearance problem and in the majority of cases, when the tenants of an unfit dwelling have been rehoused, the property is 'made fit' by comprehensive modernisation.

Repair

Informal action resulted in repairs being carried out to five dwellings. This action was taken following the receipt of complaints from tenants. It was not necessary to take formal action to secure the repairs of any dwelling during the year.

Improvement Grants.

National policy is now to provide for the improvement of houses which although built many years ago, are structurally sound but lack the amenities now felt to be essential for healthy living. When one considers the technical achievements of this generation it is absurd that some people should have to live in dwellings without a domestic hot water supply, indoor sanitation, a bath in a bathroom or satisfactory heating or cooking facilities. The Housing Act, 1969 introduced more generous grants to assist house owners to improve their dwelling and it is pleasing to see that this has resulted in an increase in the number of properties being improved and brought up to an acceptable modern standard.

Standard Grants.

In 1971, 16 applications from private owners for standard grants were approved. The average grant paid was £241.

Discretionary Grants.

In 1971, 30 applications from private owners for discretionary grants were approved. The average grant paid was £546. In 1970, 18 applications were approved.

General Improvement Areas

A logical development of the policy to improve individual houses is the legislation to provide for the general improvement of areas of housing. This involves not only improving individual houses but improving the environment as a whole. Such an approach remedies some of the shortcomings affecting older, residential areas such as lack of car parking space, insufficient play space for children, and the problems associated with increasing road traffic, and also enables the whole area to be given a 'face lift.'

The Vine Street/Stanley Street/New Street area had been noted as a potential Improvement Area. During the year a preliminary survey was carried out and this confirmed that this area would make an ideal Improvement Area. Technical Officers from the Regional Office of the Department of the Environment visited the area and suggested that the size of the area should be increased to include the area bounded by the east side of Recreation Ground Road, the south side of New Cross Road, the west side of Conduit Road and the north side of East Street. This area consisted of 188 houses. The Department of the Environment

also offered to undertake all the initial technical work involved in the preparation of the scheme. However, when those proposals were considered by the Council it was resolved that although the Council would like very much indeed to have the assistance of the Department of the Environment in declaring the area to be a General Improvement Area, and to put in hand a scheme such as outlined, the Council were of the view that to do so would be beyond the present capacity of the Council's staff, especially bearing in mind the commitments which they have in hand at the present time, particularly in Local Government Reorganisation, over the next two years.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Houses "occupied by persons who do not form a single household" can cause serious problems for the Public Health Department but fortunately in Stamford there are few such dwellings. During 1971, one formal notice was served on the owner of a 'House in Multiple Occupation' requiring the property to be provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire.

Rents.

The object of Part III of the Housing Act, 1969 is to encourage the keeping of houses subject to the Rent Acts in a state of good repair and the providing of them with standard amenities. The form which this encouragement takes is that, if the house qualifies for the issue of the necessary certificate, the tenancy of it, will be converted from being a controlled tenancy into a 'regulated tenancy' let on a fair rent as assessed by the Rent Officers.

The method by which this is done is by the qualification certificate, by which the local authority certify, on the application of the landlord of the dwelling, that the dwelling satisfies the following conditions: 1) that it is provided with all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of its occupants, 2) that it is in good repair, having regard to its age, character and locality and disregarding internal decorative repair, and 3) that it is in all other respects fit for human habitation. The method of applying for a qualification certificate is laid down in the Act, there being different procedures in cases where all the standard amenities have already been provided, and in cases where the dwelling lacks one or more of them but it is proposed to instal the missing amenities with the use of an improvement grant.

The issue of qualification certificates is work which requires great deal of care and judgement. During the year 10 applications for Qualification Certificates were dealt with.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were encountered during the year.

Movable Dwellings.

The three small caravan sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

2. SWIMMING BATHS

The Municipal Swimming Baths, and the swimming pools at Stamford School, the Stamford High School and the Stamford Hospital were visited each week while the pools were open and samples of water from each of the pools were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough for bacteriological examination.

The water in a swimming pool is subject to continual pollution and to make the water 'safe' a sterilizing agent has to be used. Because of its prolonged effectiveness, chlorine is the most commonly used sterilant and it is used in all the swimming baths in the town. The Municipal Swimming Baths and the Stamford School Pool use chlorine gas while the Stamford High School Pool and the Stamford Hospital Pool use a hypochlorite solution.

All the pools use what is known as the 'break-point' system of chlorination. Simply this means adding sufficient chlorine to break down organic material in the water in order to ensure the presence of molecular free chlorine which has considerable sterilizing capacity.

When the samples are collected the swimming pool water is also tested to check the level of chlorination and the 'pH' value. 'pH' is the expression used to indicate the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the water. Pure neutral distilled water has a pH of 7.0 and a figure below 7.0 indicates that the water is acidic, above 7.0 that the water is alkaline. The correct pH value assists the chlorine in its work of sterilizing the water and reduces the risk of eye irritation to bathers. The ideal pH for swimming pool water is 7.5.

Details of the samples taken are as follows:

Swimming Bath	Inspections	No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination
Stamford High School	56	100
Stamford School	24	41
Municipal Baths	32	91
Stamford Hospital	34	48

The bacteriological examination consists of incubating the water at blood heat and then determining the bacterial content (plate count). Samples are also examined for the presence of coliform organisms (the faecal type of which are indicative of excremental pollution). The standard required is that no samples should contain coliform organisms in 100 millilitres, which in 75% of the samples taken the plate count should not exceed 10 per millilitre. In the remaining 25% of samples, counts as high as 100 per millilitre can be regarded as satisfactory. Over the year, all the swimming pools reached a satisfactory standard.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

General Food Inspection

In the course of general food inspection duties, almost 8 tons of unsound food were surrendered. The details are as follows:

	tons	cwts	lbs
Meat at retail shops - carcase meat		4	89
offal			41
Canned meats		11	14
Other canned foods	4	5	38
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown	2	16	71
Other foods		1	2
Total	7	19	61

Hygiene of Food Premises

143 visits were made to premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 apply. Numerous minor infringements were dealt with on the spot and where necessary were followed up with a written warning. One serious breach of the Regulation was reported to the Health Committee. A final formal warning from the Council resulted in the trader concerned giving an undertaking to restrict his business until his premises had been brought up to a satisfactory standard.

Unsound Food

Eleven complaints regarding unsound food were received and investigated during the year. When one considers the total quantity of food sold in the course of a year, the number of complaints are small.

Details of the complaints received are shown in the table below:

Complaint	Investigation
Hard small pieces of metal in a joint of beef	The particles appear to be fine Lead shot which had most likely been present in the live animal - no action possible.
Unusual appearance of the contents of a tin of sardines	The blackening of the inside of the can was caused by sulphiding - the contents were not adversely affected.
Cigarette ash in cake	Complainant did not wish to be involved in legal proceedings, therefore no action other than a strong warning to manufacturer.
Unusual taste to Yoghurt	No abnormality detected - product replaced by the retailer.
Maggots present in sausages	It was not possible to confirm whether the infestation had occurred before or after leaving the butchers shop, therefore no action possible.
Mouldy Bread (4 complaints)	Complaints all involved wrapped bread - the complainants did not wish to be involved in legal proceedings. Discussions with retailer and manufacturer regarding stock rotation and coding - in two cases the manufacturers could not decipher their own 'date of manufacture' code!
Sale of stale bread	Appeared to be a case of the sale of 'over baked' bread - no action loaf replaced by retailer.
Live insect in bread loaf	The insect was a moth but expert opinion could not agree which type of moth it was - One entomologist said it was of the species commonly known as the mill moth, while a second opinion was that it was a brown house moth. This conflict of opinion created doubt as to where the infestation had occurred, so no formal action was taken.

Date Stamping

During the year there was considerable publicity in the national press about the coding of perishable foods, the use of open date-stamping and allegations that some van delivery salesmen were taking back unsold food from retailers and re-selling it to others.

During routine visits to food premises checks were made in order to see if stale food was being offered and exposed for sale. This task was made difficult by the variety of codes used by the manufacturers and also by the fact that if one could decipher the code, one had to decide if the code indicated the date of manufacture or the date of expiry of the accepted shelf life of the product. However, it was possible to build up a useful glossary of manufacturers' codes.

Enquiries revealed that in the majority of cases the shop manager was not familiar with the interpretation of the codes of the perishable foods which were being sold at his shop. Usually the shop manager was relying on the delivery man to check and replace old stock. This system was found to be unreliable and in several cases stale food was found to be on sale. However, when shop managers had been informed of the meaning of the relevant codes and word had got around amongst the delivery men that the Public Health Departments were checking codes, the position improved considerably.

It is obvious that routine checks on perishable foodstuff, with particular attention being given to the many different codings, will have to continue. Perhaps the greatest difficulty is ensuring that shop managers are fully conversant with the various codes and this is where attention must be directed. Food manufacturers always emphasise that it is up to the shop manager to operate his own stock rotation in order to ensure freshness of food, but this is no mean task when one considers the vast range of foodstuffs which now bear coding dates, e.g. cakes, bread, cheeses, butter, cream, yoghurts, pies, etc. There is also the added confusion when codings are changed from time to time by some manufacturers. Manufacturers must accept a great deal of responsibility in these matters, and it is suggested that all manufacturers should use a national uniform coding system indicating the date of manufacture and that all retailers should be advised of the coding and the shelf-life of the commodities under different conditions.

Ice Cream

During the year one shop was registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. In this case the process of manufacturing the ice-cream involved the use of a soft serve ice-cream machine.

The use of a soft serve machine constitutes the manufacture of ice-cream and it is necessary for premises using such a machine to be registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There is however, no power to require the registration of a vehicle containing such a machine!

The machine installed at Stamford was of a new design manufactured and sold by a German Company. In view of the fact that it seems certain we shall shortly be entering the Common Market it is of interest to note that the manufacturers instructions for operating the machine were considered to be inferior to the accepted standard in this Country, and when the Food and Drugs Authority sampled the ice-cream produced by the machine, it was found to be well below the statutory standard. The analysis of the ice-cream showed that it contained only 0.58% fat and 7.1% milk solids not fat compared with the legal standard of not less than 5% fat and not less than $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ milk solid other than fat. The manufacturers were prosecuted for this offence and were fined £10.

Food Poisoning

One case of suspected Food Poisoning was investigated during the year and specimens were submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination but the case was not confirmed.

In addition, when making a routine check on a holidaymaker who had returned from a part of Spain where there had been cases of Cholera, the holidaymaker was found to be ill with enteric symptoms. Specimens were promptly submitted to the Public Health Laboratory but no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

4. WATER SUPPLY

Sixty samples of water from domestic supplies in the Town were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Three samples were unsatisfactory. In two of these cases prompt re-sampling produced satisfactory results, while in the third case, after an investigation by the South Lincolnshire Water Board, satisfactory results were obtained.

5. CLEAN AIR

During the last few years there has been a growing awareness of the problem of environmental pollution and as part of this awareness the public is becoming more and more concerned about the pollution of the air, mainly because this is one of the forms of pollution which is often so readily seen. However, in Stamford atmospheric pollution does not present a serious problem. During the year five nuisances caused by smoke from industrial premises were investigated and in each case the nuisance was abated without having to resort to formal action. Complaints regarding the fall out of dust from the chimney of a factory in an adjoining district were referred to the Alkali Inspector for his attention. Several complaints were also received about nuisances caused by open bonfires at the rear of commercial premises and in private gardens.

Clean Air Act, 1968 Section 6

One application for the approval of the height of a chimney serving a new furnace was received.

Where an installation uses a fuel which contains sulphur, the height of the stack is based on the sulphur dioxide emission. As this application was in respect of a gas fired furnace and as gas contains little or no sulphur, the question of how high the chimney stack should be, posed a problem. There is no official guidance in such cases as to the official Working Party, which was convened in 1970 to find an answer to the question, is still studying the problem. However, a satisfactory height was agreed without having to wait for the Working Party to finish their deliberations!

6. NOISE

During 1971 there was a marked increase in the number of complaints regarding nuisances caused by noise which indicates that noise is becoming increasingly recognised as an unjustifiable interference with ordinary human comfort and well being. A total of 38 complaints were received. The complaints were made in respect of industrial premises - 15 complaints; commercial premises - 12 complaints; roadworks - 4 complaints; and domestic premises - 17 complaints. All the cases complained of were investigated and with one exception, where the complaints were considered to be justified, the nuisance was remedied by informal action.

The exception was a noise nuisance caused by a large gas fired boiler. The noise was created by combustion turbulence within the boiler, and although the problem was tackled by the Boiler Manufacturers, the Gas Council Technologists and by the Consultant Engineers engaged by the Company which had purchased the boiler, their concerted efforts have so far only achieved a reduction in the noise level. Unfortunately the boiler has been installed at commercial premises which are situated in a residential area where the normal background noise level is low.

The investigation of noise nuisances involves a series of visits at different times of the day and night to take noise readings both of the noise complained of, and the background noise levels. Because individual reactions to noise are highly subjective, it is necessary, in order to establish the existence of a nuisance, to show that it is not a case of one or two individuals being disturbed but that the noise is such as to be likely to disturb people of average sensitivity. Here it is considered that a nuisance exists, the occupier of the premises from which the noise is being emitted is visited and the problem is discussed with him. Usually, this informal action results in an improvement. Only when agreement cannot be reached on the remedial measures which are necessary is formal action contemplated and even then consideration has to be given to the defence of 'best practicable means'. If the alleged nuisance is caused in the course of trade or business it is a defence to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing or counteracting the effect of the noise.

7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspections of premises under the provision of the above Act have proceeded satisfactorily during the year. The details of the contraventions found are listed in the following table. The majority of the contraventions of the provision of the Act have been of a minor character.

DETAILS OF CONTRAVENTIONS FOUND WHICH WERE
THE SUBJECT OF INFORMAL NOTICES

Cleanliness and/or redecoration of premises required	63	Accommodation for outdoor clothing not provided	2	2
Overcrowding	-	Inadequate sitting facilities	1	
Inadequate Heating	4	Defective and dangerous floors, passages and stairs	18	
Inadequate ventilation	8			
Inadequate lighting	7	Unsafe or inadequate fencing of exposed parts machinery	1	
Unsatisfactory or inadequate sanitary accommodation	15			
Unsatisfactory or inadequate washing facilities	8	Absence of satisfactory first aid facilities	4	
Absence of supply of drinking water	2	Other Matters	29	
		TOTAL		162

If any person employed to work in premises to which the Act applies is involved in an accident on the premises and is disabled for more than three days from doing his usual work, the employer is required to notify the Local Authority. Five accidents were notified during the year. Each accident was investigated but no further action was considered necessary.

The following table shows the number of premises registered in the Borough under the Act during the year, the total number of premises registered to date and the number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year. It should be noted that one man businesses and those in which only members of the proprietor's family are employed do not require registration.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	3	70	12
Retail Shops	4	136	51
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	10	3
Catering establishments open to the Public, Canteens	-	22	15
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	238	81

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to premises registered under the Act: 141

8. PEST CONTROL

The work of treating premises infested with rats or mice is carried out by means of a contract with a private Pest Control Company. During the year the arrangement worked quite satisfactorily.

Private dwellings receive a free treatment while any work at business premises is carried out on a rechargeable basis: In addition to the work, wasps nests are destroyed without charge when the nest creates a nuisance to householders.

During the year the extent of rodent infestation in the sewers of the town was checked by a 'test baiting'. Following this, the sewers found to be infested were subjected to poison treatments which appeared to be successful in controlling the rodent population.

The following complaints were received regarding pests:

Rats	76	Cockroaches	2
Mice	14	Flies	9
Ants	8	Pigeons	3
Wasps	46	Caterpillars	3

The majority of the pest control work is carried out as matter of routine. However, unusual incidents enliven the work. One instance was the lady whose house was, for the second year running, chosen as winter quarters for a colony of cluster flies. The cluster fly is parasitic in earthworms and during the spring and summer it causes no trouble. In the autumn the flies form colonies and collect on the outside of buildings and later find their way inside to form clusters of many thousand in the roof space. It is one of the mysteries of nature as to why one building, apparently indistinguishable from its neighbours, may attract these flies for many years in succession.

9. SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Following the discovery of a fracture in a sewer serving a terrace of ten houses, formal notices were served on the owners of the houses informing them that in accordance with Section 24 of the Public Health Act 1936 the Council proposed to carry out work for the maintenance of the sewer, and that the cost of the work might be re-charged to the owners. The work was carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department at a cost of £325. The Council subsequently resolved that the cost of the work should be charged to the General Rate Fund.

In August the Welland and Nene River Authority informed the Council that in view of the low standard of the effluent from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works the River Authority were advising the County Planning Committee that they should henceforward withhold planning permission for any new development until such time as adequate sewage facilities have been provided so that development can take place without resulting in a contravention of the prescribed conditions. As a result of this, the Borough Surveyor prepared a scheme aimed at improving the effluent by installing a Banks Clarifier in one of the Humus Tanks. It was agreed that the Health Department should check on the proposal by monitoring the effluent in order to provide an index of the performance of the humus tank before and after the installation of the Banks Clarifier.

A series of samples of effluent were taken at the outlet from the circulating filter and at the outlet from the humus tank. The samples were tested by means of the 4-hour Permanganate Value Test. This test is a means of assessing the concentration of material in the sample which is readily oxidized chemically. The sampling procedure was repeated when the Banks Clarifier had been installed and it was found that there was a marked improvement in the standard of the effluent. Typical results were as follows:

PERMANGANATE V. LUE
(Assessed by colorimetric method)

Direct from filter bed	32 p.p.m.
After settlement in Humus tank	15 p.p.m.
After passing through Banks Upward flow, Clarifier constructed in humus tank	12 p.p.m.

These results indicate a 20% improvement after the installation of the Banks Clarifier.

In view of the success achieved by the pilot installation of the Banks Clarifier, it is planned to install similar clarifiers in the remaining Humus tanks.

10. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The two premises licensed in accordance with the Act were both maintained in a satisfactory condition.

11. GENERAL STATISTICS

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	212	Market	36
Improvement Grants	171	Licensed Premises	8
Public Health Nuisances	27	Smoke Nuisances	34
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises etc	141	Noise	73
Food Hygiene	143	Swimming Baths	146
Food Inspection	56	Post Control	32
Movable Dwellings	3	Water Supply	60
Factories		Infectious Diseases	18
Drinking	29	Miscellaneous	61

12. STAFF

Due to the willing co-operation of all the members of the Department the Health Department has, I think, functioned smoothly and efficiently during the year. As Mr M Dawson, the Pupil Health Inspector, has progressed with his training he has been able to undertake an increasing range of duties and he has shown considerable aptitude in all his work. Mrs Stevenson has again carried out all the secretarial work of the Department with first class efficiency and she has shown great tact and kindness in all her dealings with members of the public.

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In conclusion, I would express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Chairman (Councillor R.J.R. Scorer) and members of the Health Committee for their support during the year, to the Medical Officer of Health (Dr H Ellis Smith), whose unbounding energy and enthusiasm is an inspiration at all times, to the Town Clerk (Mr H Bedford) for his sound counsel on many occasions and to my other colleagues in the Town Hall for their full co-operation during a busy year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

G FOX

Public Health Inspector

Town Hall
Sleaford, Lincs.

June 1972

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	5	1	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	14	2	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	80	15	2	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	1	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	2	-	-	-

There were no Outworkers listed during the year.

